

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 05899

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: UK EI
SUBJECT: CALLAGHAN-LYNCH MEETING, APRIL 7

REF: (A) LONDON 5743, (B) DUBLIN 1209

SUMMARY: IN REMARKS TO HOUSE OF COMMONS APR 13, NI
SECRETARY ROY MASON CHARACTERIZED CALLAGHAN-LYNCH MEET-
ING AS SHORT, POLITE, AND PRIVATE, AND INDICATED HE SAW
NO URGENCY IN ARRANGING MEETING WITH IRISH FOREIGN
MINISTER O'KENNEDY. LATTER REMARKS HAVE LED IRISH PRES
TO QUESTION MASON'S INTENTIONS AND APPARENT "REJECTION"
OF MEETING, BUT FCO SAYS HMG STILL FAVORS SUCH A MEETIN
END SUMMARY.

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1. LYNCH-CALLAGHAN MEETING. IN ADDITION TO MASON'S
CHARACTERIZATION TO COMMONS, HEAD OF FCO'S REPUBLIC OF
IRELAND DEPT (MALLET) TOLD EMBOFFS APR 13 THAT MEETING
HAD BEEN BRIEF AND RATHER THIN ON SUBSTANCE, BUT NONE-
THELESS USEFUL IN GETTING ANGLO-IRISH RELATIONS BACK ON
THE RAILS. MAIN VALUE OF MEETING WAS TO HEAL THE RIFT
CREATED (IN UK EYES) BY PM LYNCH'S REMARKS AND SUBSEQU
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SALVOS BETWEEN DUBLIN AND WESTMINSTER ON TERRORISM
ISSUE. THE MEETING ALLOWED BOTH SIDES TO BACK OFF THEI
RESPECTIVE LIMBS. MALLET OBSERVED THAT LYNCH'S FRUSTRA-
TION OVER LACK OF MOVEMENT IN THE NORTHERN IRELAND
POLITICAL SITUATION, PLUS THE REALIZATION (PROBABLY TRU
MALLET ADDED) THAT HMG WOULD DO LITTLE MORE PRIOR TO
BRITISH GENERAL ELECTIONS, HAD LED LYNCH TO SAY MORE IN

JANUARY THAN HE REALLY WISHED. MALLET BRIEFING DID NOT GO INTO THE FURTHER DETAILS OF APR 7 MEETING REPORTED REFTELS.

2. ONE REASON FOR BLANDNESS OF DISCUSSION, MALLET SAID, WAS THAT MAJOR SECURITY ISSUES HAD BEEN DISCUSSED TWO DAYS EARLIER BY SIR BRIAN CUBBON, NORTHERN IRELAND OFFI PERMANENT UNDER SECRETARY AND IRISH OFFICIALS IN DUBLIN THIS MEETING, TO HMG'S PLEASURE AND RELIEF, HAS RECEIVE NO PUBLICITY. MALLET WAS SURE PM CALLAGHAN HAD EXPLAIN HIS CONTRARY VIEW OF LYNCH'S CLAIM THAT ONLY 2 PERCENT OF NI TERRORISM INVOLVED THE REPUBLIC'S BORDER, BUT MALLET HAD NOTHING FURTHER TO SAY ON CUBBON/GOI MEETING.

3. MALLET (ON APR 13) CONFIRMED HMG'S WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE IN HIGH-LEVEL FOLLOWUP MEETING AGREED BY TH TWO PRIME MINISTERS. HOWEVER, ON SAME DATE, MASON ALSO TOLD COMMONS THAT THERE WERE NO PLANS FOR HIS MEETING WITH O'KENNEDY. (MALLET EXPLAINED THIS WAS TECHNICALLY CORRECT IN THAT FIRM ARRANGEMENTS HAVE NOT YET BEEN MADE.) MASON ALSO OBSERVED THAT ANGLO-IRISH MEETINGS TAKE PLACE AT ALL LEVELS, AS NECESSARY. AS THE PRIME MINISTERS HAD JUST MET, AND THERE WAS NO CURRENT CRISIS IN "NORTH-SOUTH" RELATIONS, HE SAW NO URGENCY FOR AN EARLY MEETING. WE POINTED OUT TO MALLET THAT IRISH PRESS (ACCORDING TO TICKER ITEMS NOT YET REPRINTED IN CONFIDENTIAL

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LONDON PRESS) WERE INTERPRETING MASON'S REMARKS AS REJECTION OF FOLLOWUP WITH O'KENNEDY. MALLET CONFIRMED THAT HMG CONTINUED TO FAVOR SUCH A MEETING AND HOPED IT WOULD TAKE PLACE, BUT ACKNOWLEDGED THAT IRISH REACTION CONSTITUTED A NEW FACTOR. (MASON'S REMARKS TO COMMONS ARE AS RELAYED BY FCO, SINCE HANSARD NOT YET AVAILABLE.)

BREWSTER

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